

DC Bicycle Advisory Committee Meeting
November 5, 2003

Minutes

Quorum Call and Minutes

BAC Chair Rudi Schreiber skipped approval of the minutes since there was no quorum yet.

Bicycle Policies

Dennis Leach of Transmanagement, Inc. presented an analysis of DC policies, regulations and guidelines that might affect bicycling. This review is part of the larger bicycle plan update contract. In addition to building bicycle facilities, there are hundreds of decisions at many levels made everyday that can affect bicyclists. Bicycle-friendly cities have integrated bicycling into all applicable policies. The follow are some of his observations and recommendations:

DC's Comprehensive [land use] Plan is weak on bicycling. Bicycling should be added to the introduction, transportation, and public facilities sections.

DC's zoning regulations contain bicycle parking regulations for off-street (garage) parking for office and retail uses, but not for street-side racks or residential off-street parking. The requirements are tied to (i.e., a percentage of) car parking. We might want to revisit this approach.

Another area for improvement is drivers education and testing at the Department of Motor Vehicles. There should be more questions on driving near bicyclists.

As for moving violations, speeding enforcement would improve conditions for bicyclists and pedestrians.

There are no regulations regarding driving or parking in bicycle lanes.

In the DDOT roadway design manual bicycling needs to be strengthened in the project checklist.

Mr. Leach provided many other recommendations which are available in his full report on the bike plan web site (www.bikemap.com/dcbikeplan)

Bicycle Route Network

Jim Sebastian of DDOT introduced the latest version of the proposed bicycle route network. Participants broke into 3 groups to review the maps and make comments. It was decided that the facilities committee would meet on December 3 to review the route network in more detail, and possibly ride the routes in the interim. Ideally, the new route network can be firmed up in January 2004.

Innovative Bicycle Facilities

Bill Schulthies of Toole Design gave a presentation on innovative bicycle facilities. Mr. Sebastian explained that we will not be able provide bicycle lanes on all the streets we would like due to the traffic and parking needs. Thus, the presentation highlighted some alternatives to bicycle lanes from other cities such as:

- pavement symbols for streets with rush parking restrictions
- two-way bicycle lanes (trails) on one side of the street
- sidewalks marked to separate bikes and peds
- traffic calming
- bicycle boulevards
- contra-flow bike lanes (a bike lane on a one-way street in the opposite direction of traffic)

Approval of Minutes

At this point in the meeting, a quorum materialized and the meeting minutes for July and September were approved.

Homework

Mr. Sebastian described the proposed homework assignment. Each BAC member is asked to find out about projects and studies in their ward that might effect bicycling, and report on them at the January meeting.

Mr. Sebastian asked whether this project was an appropriate level of effort for BAC members. Ward 1 member Lyn Stoessen responded that yes, when people signed up for the BAC they should have expected this level of involvement. Ward 3 BAC member Ellen Jones suggested contacting Office of Planning staff in addition to the DDOT planners. Mr. Sebastian said he would update the list of contacts on the homework assignment sheet to include the OP planners and then send it to the BAC.

Metropolitan Branch Trail Update

Chris Holben, Met Branch Project Manager, said that the conceptual design for the trail has begun. It will take 9 months, cost about \$500,000, include public participation, and determine the exact, final alignment of the trail.

Other Business

Rudi Schreiber (BAC Chair) suggested asking the DC School of Law at UDC for a student to help with an overhaul of bicycle related regulations and legislation.